

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 7, 2009 has been carefully considered. Within the Office Action Claims 1-13, 17 and 18 have been rejected; and Claims 14-16 have been objected to. The Applicants have amended Claim 13 and have cancelled Claims 1-12 and 15. The Applicants reserve the right to further pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation and/or divisional application as well as for appeal purposes. In addition, the Applicants have added new Claims 19-32. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested as Applicant's amendments place the application in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-13, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,800,242 to Yin in view of International Publication No. WO 00/05735 to Sfondrini et al. (hereinafter "Sfondrini"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-12 without prejudice. In addition, Applicants have amended Claim 13 to incorporate the limitations from objected-to dependent Claim 15. Accordingly, Claim 13 is now in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter and New Claims

Claims 14-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As indicated above, Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations from dependent Claim 15.

In addition, Applicants have added new independent Claim 21 which is similar to previously filed Claim 13 along with limitations from objected-to dependent Claim 16. Applicants have also added new independent Claim 27 which is similar to previously filed Claim

13 along with limitations from objected-to dependent Claim 14. In addition, Applicants have added dependent Claims 22-26 and 28-32 which depend on allowable Claims 21 and 27, respectively. All new claims are fully supported by the specification and no new matter has been entered. Allowance of Claims 13, 14, and 16-32 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that this reply places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this reply is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-3557.

Respectfully submitted,

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